

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2007

Domestic primary aluminum production in January was 201,508 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,500 t, 3% higher than that of the previous month and 2% higher than the rate for January 2006. Total aluminum recovered from scrap in January 2007 was 257,000 t, 6% higher than that of December 2006 and the same as that in January 2006. In January 2007, 161,000 t of aluminum was recovered from new scrap, which was about 5% higher than in December but 4% lower than in January 2006. Aluminum recovered from old scrap totaled 97,000 t in January, which was 9% higher than in the previous month and 9% higher than in January 2006.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased in January to \$1.295 per pound from \$1.302 per pound in December, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased from 84-86 cents per pound to 87-89 cents per pound on January 2, and to 89-91 cents per pound on January 16. On January 30, the price range decreased to 88-90 cents per pound and remained at that price range for the rest of the month.

2006 U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in 2006 decreased 3% compared with those of 2005. Imports of metal

and alloys decreased 6%; imports of semifabricated materials and scrap, however, increased 3% and 9% respectively compared with those of 2005. Canada remained the leading shipper of aluminum materials to the United States, supplying 55% of total U.S. imports in 2006. Russia followed a distant second, supplying 14% of the 2006 imports.

Total aluminum exports in 2006 increased 19% compared with those of 2005. Exports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 7 and were led by a 36% increase in exports of aluminum scrap. Exports of metal and alloys increased 5%, and exports of semifabricated materials increased 4% compared with those for 2005. China, Canada, and Mexico were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for 79% of total U.S. exports in 2006. Mexico was the leading recipient of metal and alloys (56%); Canada was the leading recipient of semifabricated materials (48%); and China was the leading recipient of aluminum scrap (60%).

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot in February remained at \$1.295 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased to 89-91 cents per pound on February 13 and remained at that range for the rest of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2006 ^p	2,284	1,940	1,080	3,020	3,440	1,220	4,660	9,960	1,410
2006:									
January	197	168	89	257	348	97	445	899 ^r	1,470
February	179	158 ^r	85 ^r	243 ^r	247	87	333	756 ^r	1,480
March	198	164 ^r	94 ^r	258 ^r	289	104	393	849 ^r	1,460
April	190	158 ^r	90 ^r	247 ^r	353	103	456	893 ^r	1,480
May	197	160 ^r	90 ^r	250	318	106	424	870	1,430
June	189	162	92	254	298	109	407	850 ^r	1,430
July	192	165	92	256	249	111	360	808	1,450
August	185	166	109	275	315	111	426	887	1,430
September	183	160 ^r	90 ^r	250 ^r	289	102	391	823 ^r	1,480
October	190	161	80 ^r	241 ^r	259	100	359	790 ^r	1,410
November	188	163	84	247	233	99	332	766	1,400
December	196	153 ^r	89	242 ^r	241	89	330	768	1,410
2007, January	202	161	97	257	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2006 ^p	1,660	1,210	901 ^r	792 ^r	989 ^r	927 ^r	96	84	5 ^r	5 ^r	3,650	3,020
2006:												
January	135	100	76	68	87	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	306	257
February	130 ^r	95 ^r	76 ^r	68 ^r	77 ^r	72 ^r	8	7	(2)	(2)	292 ^r	243 ^r
March	141	103	79 ^r	71 ^r	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	311 ^r	258 ^r
April	135	97	79 ^r	71 ^r	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	299 ^r	247 ^r
May	138	100	66 ^r	58	90	84	8	7	(2)	(2)	302 ^r	250
June	138	100	74	66	86	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	307	254
July	136	99	76	68	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	308	256
August	167	126	71	64	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	330	275
September	135	98	77	69	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	300	250
October	130	94	69	62	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	289	241
November	139	103	76	61	81	76	8	7	(2)	(2)	304	247
December	134	98	82	66	76	71	8 ^r	7	(2)	(2)	299	242 ^r
2007, January	136	102	84	66	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	315	257

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JANUARY 2007¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	113,000	136,000	84,800	102,000
Integrated aluminum companies	83,500	83,500	66,400	66,400
Independent mill fabricators	73,100	87,700	68,300	81,900
Foundries	6,560	7,870	5,760	6,910
Other consumers	31	397	331	397
Total	276,000	315,000	226,000	257,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP
AND SWEATED PIG IN JANUARY 2007¹

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Extrusion	17,700 ^r	62,900	59,200	21,400
Can stock clippings	1,130	37,300	36,700	1,730
Other wrought sheet/clippings	4,140	21,800	21,800	4,120
Casting	2,640	7,680	7,550	2,780
Borings and turnings	2,910	11,400	11,300	3,030
Dross and skimmings	3,380	30,700	30,600	3,480
Total new scrap	32,000 ^r	172,000	167,000	36,600
Old scrap:				
Used castings	3,580	13,800	14,000	3,430
Used extrusion	399	2,690	2,670	419
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	3,760	53,600	55,500	1,890
Other wrought products	2,340	19,800	19,800	2,340
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,510	16,900	16,900	2,550
Total old scrap	12,600	107,000	109,000	10,600
Sweated pig	198	790	790	198
Total all classes	44,700	279,000	277,000	47,400

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2007^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,510	1,240	1,380	2,370
380 and variations	3,170	14,900	14,000	4,040
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,190	1,620	1,670	1,140
No. 319 and variations	1,790	4,630	5,390	1,040
F-132 alloy and variations	683 ^r	1,710	1,690	705
Al-Zn alloys	306	204	195	316
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	41	24	24	41
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283
Other ⁴	4,190	8,040	8,510	3,730
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	10,300	19,100	18,700	10,700
Total all alloys	24,500 ^r	51,900	52,000	24,400
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,280	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,520	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	513	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	39,600	XX	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January-December	December	January-December	December	January-December	December	January-December
Argentina	7,320	59,400	--	129	--	--	7,320	59,500
Australia	434	58,200	24	186	543	2,760	1,000	61,100
Bahrain	2,350	76,000	1,990	15,100	--	--	4,340	91,100
Belgium	19	216	889	7,860	--	122	909	8,200
Brazil	5,300	128,000	2,460	33,400	5	639	7,770	162,000
Canada	161,000	1,960,000	31,900	517,000	23,000	349,000	216,000	2,830,000
China	3,250	62,600	13,100	162,000	--	5	16,400	225,000
France	56	711	473	4,840	2	76	531	5,630
Germany	22	5,320	10,200	126,000	59	429	10,300	132,000
Hungary	--	--	25	2,850	--	--	25	2,850
Italy	--	203	794	3,530	--	(2)	794	3,730
Japan	65	624	1,150	15,400	51	797	1,270	16,800
Korea, Republic of	518	872	81	2,880	--	195	599	3,950
Mexico	1,150	3,940	1,810	21,100	7,310	115,000	10,300	140,000
Netherlands	21	721	203	2,240	--	112	224	3,070
Norway	12	312	--	295	--	--	12	607
Russia	47,200	660,000	5,700	51,500	2,620	8,360	55,500	720,000
South Africa	5,720	80,000	5,620	54,300	--	--	11,300	134,000
Spain	7	147	117	1,300	--	--	124	1,450
Sweden	--	3,170	127	4,460	--	31	127	7,660
Switzerland	--	1,100	587	6,110	--	--	587	7,210
Tajikistan	--	25,700	--	--	--	--	--	25,700
United Arab Emirates	5,280	99,600	51	54	21	1,670	5,360	101,000
United Kingdom	226	32,600	791	6,220	174	1,750	1,190	40,500
Venezuela	803	133,000	458	17,200	196	2,850	1,460	153,000
Other	495	44,200	10,500	161,000	3,250	43,200	14,200	248,000
Total	241,000	3,440,000	89,000	1,220,000	37,200	527,000	368,000	5,180,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January-December	December	January-December	December	January-December	December	January-December
Australia	34	335	62	1,680	--	43	96	2,060
Belgium	89	1,510	381	6,520	--	309	470	8,340
Brazil	7	129	1,080	7,720	348	682	1,430	8,530
Canada	7,090	119,000	24,400	475,000	9,660	146,000	41,100	740,000
China	4	2,510	4,110	38,600	58,300	895,000	62,400	936,000
Czech Republic	--	(2)	9	141	--	--	9	142
Dominican Republic	11	97	62	413	--	40	73	549
France	--	83	1,280	13,800	--	22	1,280	13,900
Germany	54	558	777	10,100	(2)	268	831	10,900
Hong Kong	12	1,100	1,070	11,500	3,990	26,100	5,070	38,700
India	27	307	44	643	645	8,290	715	9,240
Israel	83	1,080	419	4,280	--	--	502	5,360
Italy	63	809	233	4,710	--	728	296	6,250
Japan	849	10,000	1,290	19,300	3,870	43,500	6,000	72,800
Korea, Republic of	36	747	1,470	14,200	13,900	153,000	15,400	168,000
Malaysia	(2)	43	86	4,110	69	2,510	156	6,660
Mexico	12,600	194,000	18,100	261,000	6,210	98,800	37,000	554,000
Netherlands	33	141	52	765	--	312	85	1,220
Russia	--	1,140	34	207	--	24	34	1,370
Saudi Arabia	8	29	3,780	31,600	--	(2)	3,790	31,600
Singapore	10	167	163	1,990	101	241	274	2,400
Spain	4	38	123	1,280	22	29	148	1,350
Sweden	(2)	1	3	165	--	--	3	166
Taiwan	37	349	242	9,160	4,210	55,700	4,490	65,200
Thailand	8	1,450	699	7,150	928	13,400	1,640	22,000
Ukraine	--	6	--	18	--	--	--	24
United Kingdom	24	455	1,300	18,300	89	644	1,410	19,400
Venezuela	--	24	397	2,550	--	1	397	2,570
Other	931	10,600	3,260	43,600	1,860	35,600	6,050	89,700
Total	22,000	347,000	64,900	990,000	104,000	1,480,000	191,000	2,820,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.